REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 are amended herein.

New claims 5-9 are added.

Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found, for example, in FIGS. 1-5, and the disclosure on pages 4, lines 2-16; page 8, line 20, through page 10, line 16; page 11, lines 2-7; page 12, lines 2-6; page 12, lines 22, through page 13, line 7; and page 15, lines 5-20, of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 USC 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIAPTED BY ALCOE

Claim 1 is amended to recite the socket as being for an electrical part having a plurality of solder ball terminals.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite a pressing mechanism mounted on the base plate, comprising (a) a body having an opening portion at a central portion of the body through which the electrical part is inserted, and (b) a cover member rotatably attached to the body, the cover member pressing the electrical part to establish electrical contact between the contact points and the solder ball terminals when the cover member is rotated toward the body.

Further, claim 1 is amended to recite an electrically insulating sheet stopper mounted on the base plate, the stopper having a predetermined thickness smaller than the height of the solder ball terminals and having a plurality of openings into which the solder ball terminals are inserted.

In addition, claim 1 is amended to recite that the stopper limits deformation of the solder ball terminals by making an upper surface of the stopper abut on the under surface of the body of the electrical part and a lower surface of the stopper abut on the upper surface of the base plate when the pressing mechanism presses the electrical part.

Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that, when portions of the elastic member corresponding to the contact points are compressed by the pressing force from the solder ball terminals of the electrical part, escaping spaces at positions in between the solder ball terminals provide for elastic deformation of the portions.

See, for example, in FIGS. 1-5, and the disclosure on pages 4, lines 2-16; page 8, line 20, through page 10, line 16; page 11, lines 2-7; page 12, lines 2-6; page 12, lines 22, through

page 13, line 7; and page 15, lines 5-20, of the specification.

Please note that new claims 5-9 are added. New independent claims 5, 7 and 9 are somewhat similar in various respects to claim 1.

Please note that new independent claims 7 and 9 recite that the escaping spaces provide for elastic deformation of portions of the elastic member, to thereby prevent damage to the solder ball terminals caused by the pressing force. See, for example, FIGS. 4 and 5 and the corresponding disclosure in the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that Alcoe does not disclose or suggest such features.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3 AND 4 UNDER 35 USC 102(E) AS BEING ANTICIAPTED BY GOIN

Claim 1 is amended to recite the socket as being for an electrical part having a plurality of solder ball terminals.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite a pressing mechanism mounted on the base plate, comprising (a) a body having an opening portion at a central portion of the body through which the electrical part is inserted, and (b) a cover member rotatably attached to the body, the cover member pressing the electrical part to establish electrical contact between the contact points and the solder ball terminals when the cover member is rotated toward the body.

Further, claim 1 is amended to recite an electrically insulating sheet stopper mounted on the base plate, the stopper having a predetermined thickness smaller than the height of the solder ball terminals and having a plurality of openings into which the solder ball terminals are inserted.

In addition, claim 1 is amended to recite that the stopper limits deformation of the solder ball terminals by making an upper surface of the stopper abut on the under surface of the body of the electrical part and a lower surface of the stopper abut on the upper surface of the base plate when the pressing mechanism presses the electrical part.

Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that, when portions of the elastic member corresponding to the contact points are compressed by the pressing force from the solder ball terminals of the electrical part, escaping spaces at positions in between the solder ball terminals provide for elastic deformation of the portions.

See, for example, in FIGS. 1-5, and the disclosure on pages 4, lines 2-16; page 8, line 20, through page 10, line 16; page 11, lines 2-7; page 12, lines 2-6; page 12, lines 22, through page 13, line 7; and page 15, lines 5-20, of the specification.

Please note that new claims 5-9 are added. New independent claims 5, 7 and 9 are somewhat similar in various respects to claim 1.

Please note that new independent claims 7 and 9 recite that the escaping spaces provide for elastic deformation of portions of the elastic member, to thereby prevent damage to the solder ball terminals caused by the pressing force. See, for example, FIGS. 4 and 5 and the corresponding disclosure in the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that Goin does not disclose or suggest such features.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 18, 2004

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